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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/764,049

01/19/2001

Tomohiro Suzuki

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01/20/2004

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EXAMINER

EVANS, FANNIE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2877

DATE MAILED: 01/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/764,049	Applicant(s) SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner F. L. Evans	Art Unit 2877	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6-19, 24, 25 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6-19, 24 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR § 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR § 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR § 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 23, 2003 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 19, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The body of independent claim 19 is narrative in form and replete and functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the fluorometric device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device.

Claim 19 is confusing in that it is not clear what "the same" in line 15 refers to. Clarification is required.

In line 2 of claim 25, "the moving speed of the samples" lacks antecedent basis.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6-17, 19, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Yurino et al (WO 00/68668), newly cited.

Yurino et al disclose methods of and apparatus for measuring fluorescence emitted from samples (11) on a measuring surface of a substrate (10). An excitation light illumination portion (30, 40) and a light detecting portion (50) are spaced apart in such a manner to prevent excitation light from approaching the light detecting portion (page 6, lines 21-26). A motor (13) is used to rotate the substrate and a separate motor (14) is used to transport the excitation light illumination portion and the light detecting portion in the radial direction of the substrate (10). The samples (11) on the measuring surface of the substrate (10) are arranged in concentric circles or in a spiral (page 8, lines 20-22). When the samples are arranged in a spiral, fluorescence emitted from the samples is measured while the excitation light illumination portion (30, 40) and the light detecting portion (50) are moved relative to the samples after illuminating the samples with

the excitation light (sentence bridging pages 9 and 10, lines 19-22 on page 13). Applicant's attention is directed to Figs. 1-4 and the text pertaining thereto.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yurino et al (WO 00/68668), of record.

Yurino et al disclose a substrate (10) with samples(11) on the measuring surface thereof, wherein the samples are arranged on more than one circles which are concentric with the central axis of the substrate and are different in radius from each other. Yurino et al do not disclose specifically that the samples at the same distance from the central axis have the same or similar attributes.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art that how the samples were placed on the surface of the substrate would have been the choice of the user and would not have involved an inventive step.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 28 is allowed over the prior art of record.

As to claim 28, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method for measuring fluorescence emitted from samples on a measuring surface of a substrate comprising the step of measuring fluorescence emitted from stationary samples while moving an excitation light portion and a light detecting portion relative to the stationary samples, in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim.

Additional Prior Art

Yamamoto et al (US 6,071,702) a substrate (10) with samples on the measuring surface thereof, wherein the samples are arranged on a plurality of circles which are concentric with the central axis of the substrate and are different in radius from each other. See Fig. 1.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6-19, 24, 25 and 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Fax/Telephone Numbers

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The fax number for Technology Center 2800 is (703) 872-9306 for regular and After Final communications.

If applicant wishes to send a fax containing a Proposed Amendment for discussion during either a personal interview or a telephone interview then the fax should:


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- 1) Contain either the statement "**DRAFT**" or "**PROPOSED AMENDMENT**" on the Fax Cover Sheet; and
- 2) Should be unsigned by the attorney or agent.

This will ensure that the amendment will not be entered into the application and will be forwarded to the examiner as quickly as possible.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to the examiner whose telephone number is (703) 308-4805. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font, can be reached on (703) 308-4881. The TC Receptionist's telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Any other inquiry of a technical nature, and all inquiries of a general nature including those relating to the status of an application should be directed to TC 2800 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.


F. L. EVANS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2877

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January 8, 2004